



FMLB Update

The Fire Management Leadership Board (FMLB) is comprised of the National Fire Director, Fire Management Program Center – Program Managers, Program Management Specialist, Regional Fire Management Officers, and Logistic/Administrative Assistant. The Board meets three times annually to develop and recommend strategic direction for the NPS wildland fire management program and to oversee the allocation of funding and resources.

The FMLB recognizes the need to improve and accelerate the flow of information to all personnel involved with wildland fire management. One effort is the creation of the FMLB Update. The purpose of this document is to provide a synopsis of decisions and activities at the recent FMLB meeting. If this format looks virtually identical to the recently released National Leadership Council Journal, it is!

National Fire Management Conference

The National Fire Management Conference is scheduled for February 26 – March 2, 2001 in Reno, Nevada.

- Conference and registration information is posted at www.nps.gov/fire/, click on *Fire Info Zone*.
- Presentations will include: general sessions for everyone; concurrent technical sessions for smaller groups and opportunity for questions; and regional breakouts.
- Reservations due by February 9.

National Prescribed Fire Workshop

The need to consistently communicate the changes in prescribed burn policies, plans, required analyses and practices dictates a national workshop. The FMLB decided that this national workshop is a **critical** priority and would be held in conjunction with the National Fire Management Conference.

- **Attendance at the Prescribed Fire National Workshop is required for all NPS Burn Bosses, Burn Boss Trainees, Prescribed Fire Managers, Prescribed Fire Manager Trainees and FMOs.**

- The workshop will be held on Monday, February 26. It will start at 0800 and end at 1700.
- Funding will be provided for travel, per diem and overtime costs.
- Workshop and funding details will be released the week of February 5th.
- Contact your Regional FMO if you have questions.

Budget

Work continued on resolving budget issues that remained from the November FMLB meeting. Key Points:

- Several large commitments to a few parks are still in flux.
- FY2002 and 2003 budgets to be submitted May 1.
- Based upon accepted recommendations of the WCF Workgroup, the FY2002 budget submission will include upgrades to permanent full time for the 22 existing and 23 new engine foreman positions (\$1,035,680).
- FY2002 budget submission will include positions generated by cluster analyses (~\$400,000).
- Length of fire season will determine pay periods for subject-to-furlough Assistant Engine Foremen positions.
- Based upon the recommendations of the Fire Effects Workgroup and modifications by Program Manager Sexton, the FMLB accepted "upgrade logic" for fire effects/fire ecologist positions. Upgrades will occur if funds become available in 251 account.

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- Contingency fund covers IMT expenditures, PCS, and unexpected costs.
- It is critical that parks keep their data bases updated in SACS for accurate understanding of wildland fire program needs.
- \$500,000 has been set aside for preparing and updating Fire Management Plans. Specific strategies for completing the plans must be identified before funds will be released.
- An additional \$523,000 for Rural Fire Assistance was allocated to regions.
- FIREPRO Steering Committee to review the remaining WCF Workgroup recommendations, develop Prevention staffing/funding analysis, and Aviation Support analysis.

Wildland Urban Interface Initiative

- The Western Governors' Association (WGA) and the Federal Agencies agreed that an 18 person workgroup develop the 10 year strategic plan.
- National criteria were established to be used as guidelines by the states for identifying communities at high risk.
- Interagency workgroups in each state will determine criteria for communities at risk and establish priorities.
- Over 6,200 communities at high risk have been submitted by States, not all States have submitted.
- Communities should contact their State Forester if they want on the list.
- In order **not** to miss this field season – if there is agreement between NPS and State officials, and the project is on the state list - hazardous fuel funds will be released to start the project until Title IV WUI funds are available.

Hazardous Fuels Management

- Over \$9,815,000 of hazardous fuel reduction projects were identified.
- The remaining 251/252 funds were allocated for project overhead positions and operations support.
- Priority to fund hazardous fuel projects that protect NPS infrastructure (these projects not eligible for WUI funding).
- Additional hazardous fuels and fire effects positions will be funded if 251/252 funds become available.

Deputy Regional Directors and Associate Regional Directors, Operations Workshop

The FMLB will present a 12 to 16 hour in-depth workshop on wildland and structural fire management, during the week of March 26, 2001 in Boise.

Other Issues

Hiring - A number of fire management jobs are advertised (www.nps.gov/fire). DOI submitted justification to release fire positions from the new Administration's recent hiring freeze.

DOI Cohesive Fuels Strategy - A small group of DOI personnel (NPS Sexton) will make the document compatible with the USDA Forest Service's Strategic Document.

Prescribed Fire Modules - Regional module coordinators will form a Module Workgroup. Module leaders and regional coordinators will meet at National Fire Management Conference.

National Fire Management Message - Roberta D'Amico is leading a small workgroup which is developing a national message regarding wildland fire management in the NPS.

Fire Education and Prevention Specialist - Position title changed to include Prevention, PD revised to increase emphasis on Prevention duties and knowledge.

Work Force Development - Other agencies modeling their mentor programs after NPS. NPS has best response to Brookings Institute survey. Developing standardized training plans for standardized PDs.

Liability Insurance - Legislation authorizing coverage for Law Enforcement applies to fire positions. NPS contributes a portion of the expense from support funds.

Review and Update of the 1995 Federal Wildland Fire Management Policy - view the January 2001 version at: <http://www.nifc.gov/>

Good Communication Is Everyone's Responsibility!!